

The Very Small

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Written by Joyce Dunbar

Illustrated by Debi Gliori ★



To the Very Kind
John, Mary, and Miriam Kiki
—J. D.

For Rowan, my Very Big
—D. G.

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The Very Small



Written by Joyce Dunbar Illustrated by Debi Gliori

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One day, when Giant Baby Bear was playing in the woods, he found a very small . . .





something!



He picked up the very small something in his paws and gave it a good sniff.

"You're a very small something," said Giant Baby Bear. "I'm lost," cried the Very Small. "I want my mommy!"



"I don't know where your mommy is," said Giant Baby Bear, "but you can share my mommy if you like."


And he took the Very Small home to his mommy and placed him in one of her very large paws. She gave a great big grin, showing all her great big teeth.

"What's this you've found?" asked Giant Mommy Bear.



"I want my daddy!" howled the Very Small.





"I don't know where your daddy is," said Giant Baby Bear, "but you can share my daddy if you like."

And Giant Baby Bear took the Very Small from his mommy's very large paws and placed him in his daddy's even larger paws. Giant Daddy Bear stared hard through his spectacles.

"What's this you've found?" he growled.



"I want to go home!" wailed the Very Small.

"I don't know where your home is," said Giant Baby Bear, "but you can share my home if you like. Let me show you around."

And Giant Baby Bear showed the Very Small all around his cave. He showed him the sleeping corner and the eating corner and the scratching corner and the thinking corner. Last of all he showed him his toys in the playing corner.

"There you are," said Giant Baby Bear. "You are so very small that I shall make a very small playground for you to play in."





So the Very Small rode on the very small seesaw, with Giant Baby Bear pressing one end with his paw. He swung on the very small swing, with Giant Baby Bear pushing.



And he slid on the very small slide, with Giant Baby Bear catching him at the bottom.



Suddenly he felt very hungry.

"I want my dinner!" called the Very Small.



"I don't know what you were going to have for your dinner," said Giant Baby Bear, "but you can share my dinner if you like."

And Giant Baby Bear placed the Very Small next to his plate, and the Very Small ate one whole pea and five whole crumbs of bread, and drank one whole spoonful of milk.





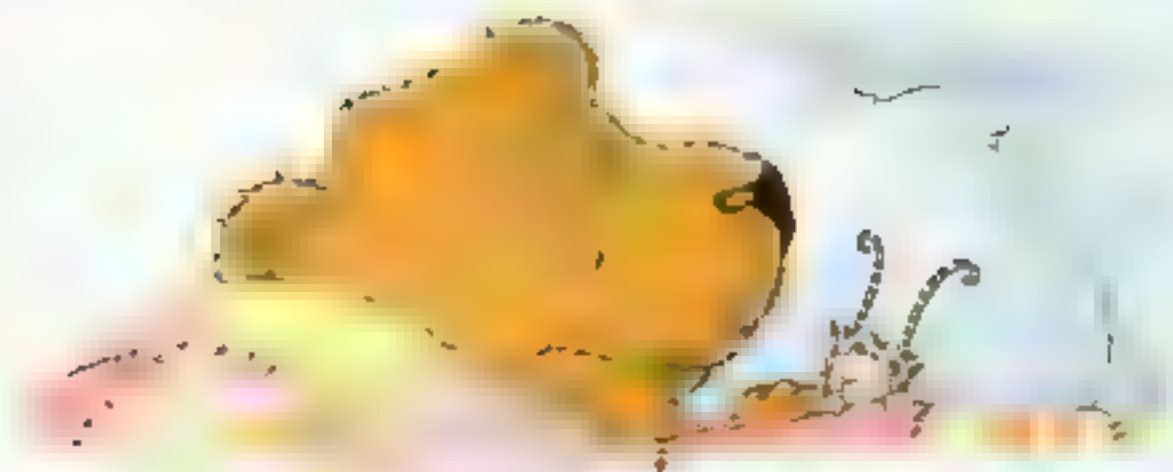
Then he felt very tired.

"I want my bed," said the Very Small.

"I want my bed, too," said Giant Baby Bear, "but first we have to take a bath."

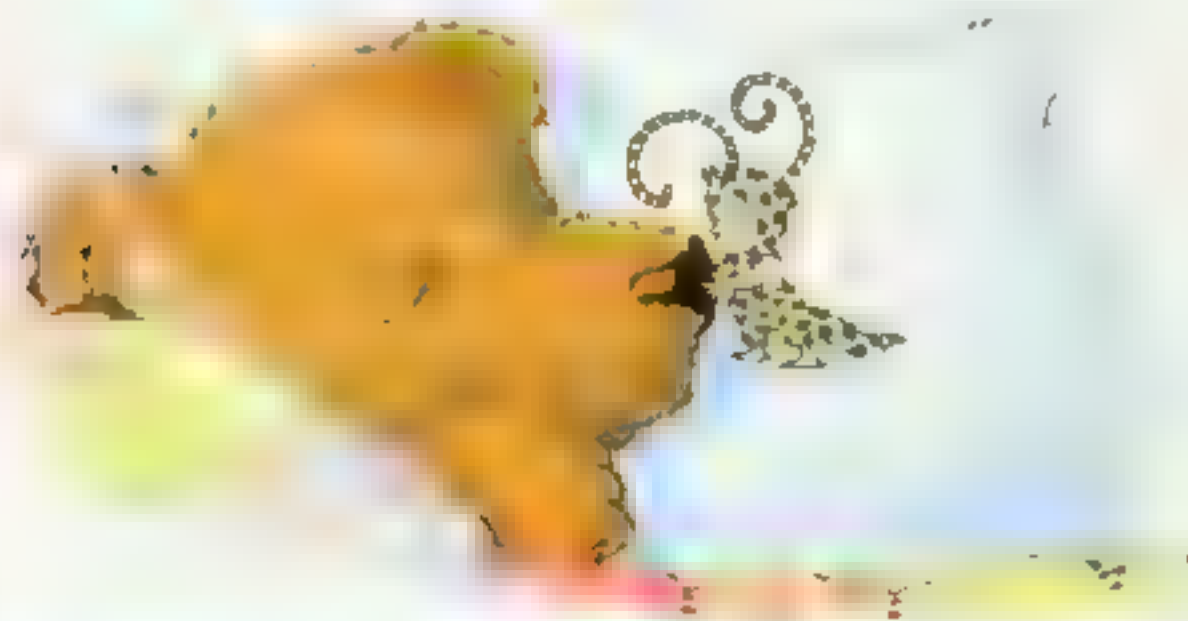
And Giant Baby Bear had a splashing bath in the great big tub, while the Very Small had a floating bath in the great big soap dish.





Then Giant Baby Bear put the Very Small next to him on his pillow and fell asleep.

But the Very Small didn't fall asleep. Giant Baby Bear was snoring so loudly that he couldn't. So he pinched Giant Baby Bear's nose to try to stop his snoring, but to Giant Baby Bear it felt very much like a tickle, and suddenly he went—



blowing the Very Small right out of the cave and across the yard and over the

treetops, until he landed in the very same part of the woods where he had gotten lost in the first place





And there, waiting for him, were the Very Small's very own mommy and daddy. They were *so* pleased to see him! They took him home and tucked him up in his very own bed with his very own bear, who suddenly seemed . . .





very small!



Joyce Dunbar has written more than fifty books for children, including *Tell Me Something Happy Before I Go to Sleep* and *This Is the Star*, a *Publishers Weekly* Best Book of the Year. She lives in Norwich, England.

Debi Gliori is the illustrator of *Tell Me Something Happy Before I Go to Sleep* and her own *No Matter What*, as well as many other beloved picture books. She lives with her family outside of Edinburgh, Scotland.

PRAISE FOR

Tell Me Something Happy Before I Go to Sleep

*"Paints a touching picture of the warm and loving relationship between the siblings. . . . This is a winner."—*School Library Journal*

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A *Southwestern Magazine* Notable Book for Children

A *Parents' Choice* Honor Book

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Tell Me Something Happy Before I Go to Sleep

Join Giant Baby Bear and the Very Small in this
cozy tale of friendship and sharing!

